

ACT ENGLISH STUDY GUIDE

Common Word Usage Errors

it's = it is
It's going to rain.

its = possession
The dog wagged its tail.

its' = no such word!

they're = they are
They're leaving now.
(They are leaving now.)

their = possession
I like their house.

there = at that place
here and there
It's over there.

you're = you are
You're very kind.
(You are very kind.)

your = possession
Your bike is blue.

who's = who is
Who's singing?
(Who is singing?)

whose = possession
Whose car is this?

Who and Whom

who - replace with he or she
whom - replace with him or her

(Who/Whom) is going to the
game?

Replace with
He is going to the game.

Who is going to the game?

Affect and Effect

affect - action, verb
effect - thing, noun
(cause and effect)

The snow is affecting the game.
The snow is having an effect on
the game.

Than and Then

than - compares
then - sense of time

She is taller than her brother.

She will go to the store first, then
she will go to the bank.

Many and Fewer - countable

Much and Less - not countable

He has fewer quarters
than his friends.

She doesn't have much work
to do.

Possessives & Plurals

Singular possessive

Baby's bottle
(one baby has a bottle)

Plural possessive

Babies' bottles
(many babies have bottles)

Plural

Babies
(more than one baby)

Good and Well

Good - describes nouns or things

The lasagna is good.
She is a good athlete.

Well - describes verbs or actions

He kicks the ball well.
I performed well on my exams.

Would've = would have

Could've = could have

Might've = might have

Never use:

Would of
Could of
Might of

ACT English K.I.S.S. Rule Examples

Keep It Short and Simple
Avoid wordiness and repetition

- A. rushed in a hurry
- B. rushed or hurried
- C. made to go faster or rushed
- D. rushed

- F. words
- G. spoken statements to my ears
- H. expressed opinions on the matter
- J. verbal remarks in conversation

- A. creatures
- B. creatures, who they now realize live there
- C. creatures, whom they are encountering
- D. creatures who are found there

- F. capacity and ability
- G. capacity
- H. potential capacity
- J. genuine capacity

- A. walls intended to defend the city
- B. defensive walls for defending the city
- C. walls to provide defensive protection
- D. defensive walls

- F. constantly replenished with nutrients
- G. constantly provided with and restored by nutrients on a regular basis
- H. often constantly replenished with healthful nutrients
- J. constantly replenished with restorative nutrients regularly

- A. era of times past
- B. era of another time
- C. era
- D. era that is no more

- F. a process that repeated at different depths hundreds of feet apart
- G. repeat again and again at various different depths
- H. repeat at different depths
- J. repeat at different depths that varied

- A. best premier sailmaker in all of Philadelphia
- B. premier sailmaker
- C. foremost leading sailmaker in his native Philadelphia
- D. premier sailmaker in the city of Philadelphia

- F. over greater than half
- G. over more than half of his own
- H. more than over half of his
- J. over half of his

- A. cooled down its temperature
- B. cooled
- C. cooled down to a lower temperature
- D. lowered its temperature to cool

- F. same neck of the woods
- G. neighboring proximity
- H. vicinity
- J. surrounding locale

- A. Early
- B. As a result, early
- C. Secondly, early
- D. To provide an example, early

- F. problem that needed a solution
- G. problem
- H. problem which needed to be solved
- J. problem, which was a dilemma

